

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Literature is a reflection of in terms of human life which includes express attitudes, behavior, thought, knowledge, comments, feelings, imagination, and speculation about human beings themselves. Talking about physical activities which may or may not involve sexual organs, hugging, kissing, masturbation, sexual intercourses and so on, for proposes of pleasure or reproduction is considered sex. Sex refers to human anatomic structures called sex organs or sexual organs that play a role in reproduction or sexual pleasure (Rathus, 2009: 4).

In the second wave feminist theory, sex taken to be a universal biological and gender is a cultural variable (Brook, 1997: 190). For feminist, the discussion of biological sex differences is critical because women`s anatomy has been seen as determining their destiny. Feminist perspective begins with understanding of women`s status as socially, not biologically (Margaret, 1983: 22). The British social scientist Christ Weddon (1987) (in Mandell, 1995:4) in Agustina (2012:UMS) state that feminism is a politics directed at changing existing power relations between woman and man in the society. It is started by developing of patriarchy sistem that stacs a system characterized by power, dominance, hierarchy, and competition. In patriarchy, a social system places a man as a superior and woman is a inferior. It means that the system depends on the men. The woman is exploited easly and they do not have opportunity to show up their ability the society.

As Wellek and Warren (1977, p 94) stated, literature reserve about life and life, in most part, is part of the real society. Therefore, literary work is the reflection of the real life. It can describe the events in our life, and also contains the cultural and social background which indicates that literature and

society is closely related because literature expresses the situations and problems existing in society. Feminist theory is a conflict theory that studies gender, patriarchy, and the oppression of women.

The feminist theory perspectives frequently used the quilt designs we now often recognize are briefly summarized here. For example, *liberal feminist theory* (e.g., Friedan, 1974; Rossi, 1970; Wollstonecraft, 1792/1975) is developed out of liberal political philosophy, arguing that through legal and political avenues of the mainstream, women can change laws and politics and therefore achieve gender justice. Although liberal thought is also multifaceted, a central theme underlying much of its historical development is that of the attention to personhood and agency. Liberal feminists focus on the centrality of an ideal state that respects all its citizens, thereby granting and protecting equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men. Here, the point is not to change but reform existing norms and systems so as to include women.

According to Stevanie Sinclair (2015) virginity, women's lack of sexual experience before marriage in particular, has been highly valued in many different cultures. Some feminist critics have argued that the high value placed on the virginity of unmarried women has been used to control women, denying them sexual freedom and associating it with the transference of 'unspoiled goods' from fathers to husbands. Others celebrate virginity as an active, liberating choice. If the bride is not a virgin, the husband's family would give the pig head with a cut ear, which was a signal to shame the bride family that they had a bad daughter (Huong, 2003: 134). This also indicated that marrying a virgin woman is a man's desire and his family's as well. However, this belief exposed a misunderstanding of how virginity is lost when it is equated with the idea of taking blood-drops as the only proof of virginity.

The issue of the virginity is not only in the real world, but also becomes the attention the authors in the literary world, one of them is Ayu Utami. *Saman* novel is written by Ayu Utami. It is appeared in May 1998,

only a few weeks before the fall of Suharto. This novel is an omen of the changing cultural and political landscape in Indonesia. It is very interesting to be read because this novel reveals some important issues such as sex deviation, politic in Suharto's regime, and also belief to the God. Saman describes the lives of four female friends and a former Catholic priest, Saman. It deals explicitly with themes of sexuality that is considered taboo for women writers in Indonesia at that time. Ayu Utami also writes about the mysticism and supernatural in this novel. She has said that the stories portray some of her personal experience, such as her loss of religion which is reflected by the priest, Saman. One of the controversial novels in 1998 is *Saman* novel by Ayu Utami. *Saman* successfully got award from Jakarta Arts Council, 1998. When this novel was published, *Saman* envisioned as a fragment of the first novel by Ayu Utami which would be given tittle *Laila Tak Mampir di New York*. In 2000, *Saman* novel got the prestigious award of the Netherlands Prince Claus Award. An award which was given to the people from the thirdworld that got achievement in the field of culture and development. The novel was translated into Dutch with the title is *Samans Missie*, which was launched in Amsterdam on April 9 2001 and was attended by Ayu Utami (Paul, 1986: 77). Of all the works that have been created by her, *Saman* novel is the most obvious novel which shows her concern about sexuality.

SAMAN (1998) is a story that described oppression of plantation workers in South Sumatra. The main character of Saman arouse as the hero by his struggle in fighting for the low class society's right. It is story of exploration of female sexuality and a story about love in all its guises by the four women characters. SAMAN (1998) reveals some Indonesia's taboos, they are related to sexuality, political repression, the relationship between people with others who had different religion, and the relationship of people between elf and God (Wulandari,2014: 3). *Saman* novel tells about four friends who are intertwined with the past. Namely Laila, Shakuntala, Cok and Yasmin. Four of them were best friends since elementary school.They both

have the same obsession against men. Yasmin, someone who hates teachers and Laila who hates men. Meanwhile, Cok could not find what he should hate. Laila's hatred in men disappeared when he falls for the first time on Wisanggeni who was then a seminary student who was assigned guiding recollection on social awareness in their junior. Unfortunately, Laila Minang's family was to see her daughter get along with Pastor candidates. And Yasmin, who was Catholic, did not approve it. However, Yasmin is also a frequent help with Wis Laila meeting on the basis of friendship. The more time passes, everything is changing. Laila did not love Wisanggeni who had changed his name to Saman. This time he loves Sihar, someone who is already married. The most powerful Laila defend her virginity than three friends. He was also the only one who has not been married. Yasmin, a reliable lawyer who gladly always defend injured party without having to ask a great reward. Yasmin has been married. But unlike Cok are always changing partners, and is known as a wanton. Shakuntala is a friend of Laila, Yasmin and Cok living in New York because he was awarded a scholarship in the field of dance.

The three friends have a high social life and cause them to engage in a joint Sihar and Wisanggeni problem. Yasmin and Laila asks Sihar to help resolve the case of a friend who died because of carelessness Sihar their leaders. Sihar with helped by Wis and Yasmin were a lawyer trying to solve the case. Laila and Sihar become very familiar because such cases, until they devise a date. However, the date was thwarted by Sihar because he could not bear to Laila virginity. Wisanggeni assigned as parish Parid small town that serves Perabumulih and Karang Endah, the diocese of Palembang. Prior to his service, he took to her former home 10 years ago. After a few times to the house, and are familiar with the owner of the house, he gained the confidence to stay there for the owner to Jakarta to give birth. When staying at the house, Wis re-hawa hawa can feel strange bleak childhood. It can also hear the sound of her younger siblings as well as conversing with each other's

language. Wis suddenly heard the sound of a girl ask for help and he ran to the sound source up in a well in the middle of the forest.

Afterwards Wis screaming for help in the local community. And after a crowd came, it turned out no one dares to go in to help the girl. Wis ventured to do that, he and the girl survived. She was named Upi, he is a man who her soul distracted and did not understand human language. When Wis Upi returns to his parents, he had just learned that Upi exiled by his mother at home deprived of a very small, no more than either of the goat pen. Feeling can not bear, and little by little emerged affection in his heart, Wis stocks made a new home for Upi larger and comfortable. Not only that he did, Seeing the state of the plantation where he was concerned. He jug afraid that if they moved from there Upi will not get a better house than now. Then, with permission from the bishop to work in the plantation, Wis create a simple rubber processing for the area Lubukrantau it and make power plants.

One time, a riot broke. Wis made power plants vandalized. And it turns out these people are agents of palm oil companies that want to buy a rubber plantation and just Wis Upi very sturdy and their families not to sell their land. The buyers were furious, they gather women and children in the mosque and then burn the whole house and kidnapped citizens to prison Wis exile. There Wis severely tortured and forced to admit what he did not do. He terpasa up a story to lessen the torture that he was a communist who wanted to convert the farmers Lubukrantau, make heaven on earth and wanted to replace the president. He kept doing it until one day, the place was on fire captivity. He felt trapped by the fire, but after hearing the voices of his childhood, without he knew how, he survived the fire, and he was taken to hospital by Anson and then cared for by the sisters of the church. However, its existence in hiding until he recovered after being treated for three bulan. He replace identity cards to retrospective case series was completed about two years later he changed his name to Saman.

Then he sent letter to his father, to his father's trust and apologize for everything that happened and the news circulated news does not charge and

ask for some money for his efforts for social activities. Then Wis back into trouble in the field which makes it a fugitive, and finally Yasmin also help Wis upon the recommendation of all his friends in Palembang. He proposes to order Wis away from Indonesia. He also helped all the necessary preparations on disguises Wis. Together Cok he managed to get Wis no one knows. But in the middle of the journey, Yasmin could not help feeling sad on the departure Wis. They ended up doing a forbidden relationship that should not be done. Wis finally escaped. He also has become very close and very loving with Yasmin. Feelings and desires for this in buried submarine he became a priest, now turned into a feeling of love for Yasmin.

There are reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this novel. First, the researcher admires the bravery of Ayu Utami as SAMAN (1998) author. Second, the researcher wants to reveal discourse of sexuality in the novel, many characters in this novel whose has experiences about sexuality. Third, the novel talked about women's position on that era. Fourth, the plot of the novel is interesting. Fifth, the issue of the novel is reflected well.

Based on the illustration above, the writer is interested to analyze this novel by using feminist of literature entitled **VIRGINITY REFLECTED IN AYU UTAMI'S SAMAN NOVEL (1998): A FEMINIST APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

Saman novel is interesting novel to be read. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the Saman novel has been conducted by some students. The first previous study about *Saman* novel is conducted by Lusiana Nety Harwati, a Brawijaya University's student, in her article published on March 17, 2012, entitled "*Saman: Is It A Gratuitous Pornography?*". The research concludes that Ayu Utami's *Saman* is considered as an Indonesian controversial novel because of its openness in depicting sexual problem. Several senior and well-known Indonesian writers criticize *Saman* as a

gratuitous pornography. Indeed, some scenes in the novel signify the sexual freedom of its characters. It seems, however, that such criticisms fail to appreciate its complex theme. Harwati also says *Saman* carries broader thematic scope, such as political repression and the place of religion and spirituality in contemporary lives. She concludes that sexuality openness shown in the novel is only a means to reveal the real situation in Indonesian society.

The second is study which was conducted by Oktivita (UMS, 2009) entitled *Perilaku Seksual Dalam Novel Saman Karya Ayu Utami :Tinjauan Psikologi Sastra*. This study describes sexual disorientations and reveal complex sexual behavior in *Saman* novel.

The third is study which have conducted by Yuni Purwanti (University's of SebelasMaret Surakarta, 2009) entitled *Novel Saman Dan Larung Karya Ayu Utami Dalam Perspektif Gender: Pendekatan Sosiologi*. In her research, she aimed: (1) to describe the differences and the similarities between *Saman* and *Larung*, novels by Ayu Utami; (2) to describe the prespectives of gender in *Saman* and *Larung*, novels by Ayu Utami. The results of this research are: (1) the similarities between *Saman* and *Larung* novels are in terms of their theme and social background, while the differences are in terms of setting, plot, language style, point of view, and characters for there is a character improvement; (2) The perspectives of gender in *Saman* and *Larung*, novels by Ayu Utami are the struggle of gender equivalence, to fight against patriarchy system, and to break through gender discrimination as performed by Yasmin, Laila, Cok and Shakuntala characters in the novels; feminism values in *Saman* and *Larung*, novels by Ayu Utami, are radical feminism.

The fourth is study which conducted by Yuniati Lina Puspita (University of Semarang, 2005) entitled *Pandangan Dunia Pengarang dalam Novel Saman Karya Ayu Utami :Strukturalisme Genetik*. The main point of

this research paper is analyzing (1) to describe how the structure of novels *Saman* by Ayu Utami; (2) how the social environment by Ayu Utami; (3) how the views writer that a reflection on *Saman* novels by Ayu Utami.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Considering the background above, the main problem in this research is how Ayu Utami describes the virginity every character telling their sexual experiences through *Saman* novel.

### **D. Objectives of The Study**

The aims of the research are follows:

1. To analyze the novel on the structural elements
2. To analyze the novel with Feminist Approach

### **E. Limitation of The Study**

The researcher focusses this research in analyzing virginity reflected in Ayu Utami's *Saman* novel(1998) on feminist theory.

### **F. Benefits of The Study**

This research is conducted in order to have benefits as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The result of this study is expected to give information, benefits, and contribution to the larger of knowledge particularly the literary study in Ayu Utami's *Saman* novel by using feminist theory.

#### **2. Practical Benefit**

The writer expects that this research will give significant benefits in the form of information, especially for students of English Department who manage themselves to increase their knowledge in analyzing *Saman* novel by using feminist approach.



## **G. Research Method**

In this research the writer analyzes *Saman* novel by using descriptive qualitative research which consists of method of collecting, describing, classifying, analyzing data and drawing the conclusion.

### **1. Type of the Study**

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative research, because it does not need statistics data to get the fact. Descriptive qualitative research is focusses on reports of experience or on data which cannot be adequately expressed numerically. Berg (2007) states that “qualitative research thus refers to meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols and description of thing.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The writer uses two sources of data, namely primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the novel itself, *Saman* by Ayu Utami. And the secondary data source are taken from other sources which are related to the primary data such as the biography of the author, and website about *Saman*.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

There are two types of data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

#### **a. Primary Data**

The primary data is the main data obtained from all the words, dialogues, phrases and sentences in the novel. The primary data sources of the study are *Saman* novel by Ayu Utami.

#### **b. Secondary Data**

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the novel. The secondary data of the study are taken from any information related to the novel.

#### **4. Techniques of Data Collection**

The technique of data collection the writer used in this study is library research. Firstly, the writer reads and comprehends the primary and secondary data source. Secondly she notes down of important information in both sources. Then, she selects them by accepting the relevant information with the problem and rejecting the irrelevant information that does not support the topic of the study. Beside that the writer uses internet to find the information about the novel and literary theory that she uses.

#### **5. Technique of Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis or content analysis. The analysis is started on the author and then the structural analysis of the novel and finally the individual analysis of the literature.

### **H. Paper of Organization**

The paper consists of five chapters and each of them is sub divided into sub sequent division as follows:

Chapter I is the introduction that consists of background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper of organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory; it describes the notion of feminist approach, notion of virginity, structural elements of the novel and theoretical application.

Chapter III is social background in Indonesian society in twentieth century which covers the structural element of Saman novel; political aspect, economic aspect, economic aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect, religious aspect and biography of Ayu Utami.

Chapter IV is structural analysis; it covers the structural element of Saman novel; it consists of narrative elements of the novel such as characteristics and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme, and discussion

Chapter V is feminist analysis of Ayu Utami's novel *Saman*.

Chapter VI is the last chapter integrates the overall discussion and brings to the Conclusion of the study.